Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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R 021145Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7783

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN ASSESS KISSINGER-BREZHNEV MEETINGS POSITIVELY

REF: MOSCOW 4635

- 1. FIRST BULGARIAN COMMENTARY ON SECRETARY'S MOSCOW TRIP IS DISTINCTLY POSITIVE. WRITING IN "RABOTNICHESKO DELO" APRIL 1 ATANAS ATANASOV SAYS THAT TALKS WERE "OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE". MOST IMPORTANT WAS WILLINGNESS OF BOTH SIDES, "REGARDLESS OF SERIOUS DIFFERENCES ON A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS, TO SEEK THE MOST REALISTIC APPROACH IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE DECISIONS". COMMENTARY GOES ON TO POINT OUT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SECRETARY'S MEETINGS AND FORTHCOMING SUMMIT WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS "AN EVENT OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE".
- 2. COMMENTARY NOTES PESSIMISTIC PRESS STORIES IN WEST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH AUTHOR DISMISSES AS USUAL REACTION FROM THOSE WHO

PURPOSELY CHOOSE TO EMPHASIZE "INEVITABLE DIFFICULTIES". SUCH PEOPLE ARE "BEARERS OF MISTRUST, ANIMOSITY AND CONFRONTATION" WHO WILL OPPOSE THE SMALLEST STEP IN AMELIORATION OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS. NONETHELESS THE "PEACELOVING FORCES OF THE WORLD" RIGHTFULLY ASSESS THE MOSCOW MEETINGS AS "SUCCESSFUL INTERIM STAGE IN HISTORIC DIALOGUE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES".

- 3. "RABOTNICHESKO DELO" ARTICLE INTERESTINGLY GOES ON TO DEFEND US PUBLIC OPINION AS BEING OVERWHELMINGLY IN FAVOR OF IMPROVED RELATIONS AND CITES HARRIS POLL RESULTS PUBLISHED IN JANUARY IN WHICH 69 PERCENT BELIEVE LONG RANGE AGREEMENTS CAN BE REACHED WITH SOVIET UNION.
- 4. COMMENTS ARE CERTAINLY IN LINE WITH PRESS COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S MEETINGS. FINAL COMMUNIQUE GIVEN BANNER HEADLINES AS LEAD FRONT PAGE STORY.
- 5. COMMENT: WHETHER RABOTNICHESKO DELO ARTICLE, HOWEVER, REFLECTS HIGHEST LEVEL GOB THINKING IS MOOT POINT. ONE AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN WHO MET WITH MINISTER FOREIGN TRADE NEDEV APRIL 1 REMARKED THAT NEDEV HAD SPENT GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT TO GET HIS VIEWS ON FUTURE OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS AND, ACCORDING TO AMERICAN, APPEARED SOMEWHAT MORE PESSIMISTIC THAN HE HAD IN EARLY JANUARY. HERZ

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Message Attributes

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